

## CLAIMS

1. An estimate creating device for creating and notifying  
estimate information that includes a specification and/or  
5 an estimate of a price of a product, on the basis of user  
demand information that depends on a specific negotiation  
and estimate basic information that does not depend on any  
specific negotiation, comprising:

a negotiation-independent information database  
10 (5) containing negotiation-independent information that  
includes the estimate basic information and an update flag  
indicating whether or not the estimate basic information  
has been updated;

an estimate creating section (2) which, upon  
15 receiving an estimate create request, creates estimate  
information by obtaining from the negotiation-independent  
information database (5) estimate basic information that  
conforms to user demand information and returns the created  
estimate information to a requestor of the estimate create  
20 request;

a negotiation-dependent information creating  
section (7) which, upon receiving a request from a user  
terminal (1), transmits the estimate create request to the  
estimate creating section (2), creates negotiation-  
25 dependent information that includes the returned estimate

information, contract conclusion information indicating whether or not a contract has been concluded concerning the product to which the estimate information is directed, and the user demand information, and issues the estimate  
5 information or an announcement that the estimate information has been created as a reply to the user terminal (1);

a negotiation-dependent information database (3)  
in which the created negotiation-dependent information is  
10 stored;

a contract conclusion information updating  
section (8) which, upon receiving updated contract  
conclusion information for updating a specific contract  
conclusion information piece, makes the negotiation-  
15 dependent information database update a contract conclusion  
information piece identified by the received updated  
contract conclusion information on the basis of the  
received updated contract conclusion information;

a negotiation-independent information updating  
20 section (6) which, upon receiving updated negotiation-  
independent information for updating a specific  
negotiation-independent information piece, makes the  
negotiation-independent information database (5) update a  
negotiation-independent information piece identified by the  
25 received updated negotiation-independent information on the

basis of the received updated negotiation-independent information; and

an estimate newly-creating section (4) which, on the basis of information stored in the negotiation-independent information database (5) and the negotiation-dependent information database (3), obtains negotiation-dependent information of which the contract has not yet been concluded and which includes estimate information created by using the estimate basic information that was an object of updating, transmits to the estimate creating section (2) an estimate create request that includes user demand information of the obtained negotiation-dependent information, makes the negotiation-dependent information database (3) update the negotiation-dependent information with returned estimate information, and transmits to the user terminal (1) the estimate information or an announcement indicating that the estimate information has been created.

2. An estimate creating and notifying method for creating and notifying estimate information that includes a specification and/or an estimate of a price of a product, by using user demand information that depends on a specific negotiation and estimate basic information that does not depend on any specific negotiation, comprising steps:

storing negotiation-independent information  
including the estimate basic information in a negotiation-  
independent information database;

creating negotiation-dependent information  
5 including the user demand information;

creating the estimate information using the user  
demand information and the estimate basic information;

storing the created negotiation-dependent  
information in a negotiation-dependent information database  
10 when a contract has not been concluded concerning the  
product for which the estimate information is created;

updating the negotiation-independent information  
stored in the negotiation-independent information database;

newly creating estimate information when said  
15 step of updating the negotiation-independent information  
has been performed, based on the estimate basic information  
in the updated negotiation-independent information and the  
user demand information in the negotiation-dependent  
information stored in the negotiation-dependent information  
20 database; and

transmitting the estimate information as created  
or an announcement indicating that the estimate information  
has been created to a user associated with the user demand  
information.

3. An estimate creating and notifying method for creating and notifying estimate information that includes a specification and/or an estimate of a price of a product, by using user demand information that depends on a specific negotiation and estimate basic information that does not  
5 depend on any specific negotiation, comprising steps:

storing negotiation-independent information including the estimate basic information in a negotiation-independent information database;

10 creating negotiation-dependent information including the user demand information and contract conclusion information indicating whether or not a contract has been concluded concerning the product for which the estimate information is created;

15 creating the estimate information using the user demand information and the estimate basic information;

storing the created negotiation-dependent information in a negotiation-dependent information database;

20 updating a content of the contract conclusion information in the negotiation-dependent information stored in the negotiation-dependent information database;

updating the negotiation-independent information stored in the negotiation-independent information database;

newly creating estimate information concerning the negotiation-dependent information for which the contract conclusion information stored in the negotiation-dependent information database indicates that no contract  
5 has been concluded, when said step of updating the negotiation-independent information has been performed, based on the estimate basic information in the updated negotiation-independent information and the user demand information in the negotiation-dependent information; and

10 transmitting the estimate information as created or an announcement indicating that the estimate information has been created to a user associated with the user demand information.

15 4. An estimate creating and notifying method for creating and notifying estimate information that includes a specification and/or an estimate of a price of a product, by using user demand information that depends on a specific negotiation and estimate basic information that does not  
20 depend on any specific negotiation, comprising steps:

storing in a negotiation-independent information database negotiation-independent information including the estimate basic information and an update flag indicating whether or not the estimate basic information has been  
25 updated;

creating negotiation-dependent information  
including the user demand information;

creating the estimate information using the user  
demand information and the estimate basic information;

5 storing the created negotiation-dependent  
information in a negotiation-dependent information  
database;

updating the negotiation-independent information  
stored in the negotiation-independent information database  
10 and changing a content of the update flag such that the  
flag indicates updating has been performed;

newly creating estimate information referencing  
the content of the update flag and based on the estimate  
basic information in the updated negotiation-independent  
15 information and the user demand information in the  
negotiation-dependent information stored in the  
negotiation-dependent information database; and

transmitting the estimate information as created  
or an announcement indicating that the estimate information  
20 has been created to a user associated with the user demand  
information.

5. The estimate information creating and notifying method  
as set forth in any one of claims 2 through 4, wherein

the negotiation-dependent information includes user information that specifies a negotiating counterpart and/or a contact address of the negotiating counterpart, or a user information address that indicates a storage area of the user information, and

information on a transmission destination of the estimate information or announcement used in the step of transmitting to the user associated with the user demand information is obtained on the basis of the user information or the user information address.

6. The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in any one of claims 2 through 4, wherein

the negotiation-dependent information stored in the negotiation-dependent information database includes the estimate information and a negotiation-independent information address which is an address of the negotiation-independent information that includes the estimate basic information used in creating the estimate information, and

the step of newly creating the estimate information comprises updating the estimate information in the negotiation-dependent information that includes the negotiation-independent information address for identifying the negotiation-independent information used in newly

creating the estimate information, with the newly created estimate information.

7. The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in any one of claims 2 through 4, comprising the step of:

transmitting the created estimate information to a user terminal for presentation to the negotiating counterpart in response to a request from the negotiating counterpart via the user terminal.

8. The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 3 or 4, comprising the step of:

obtaining a plurality of pieces of the negotiation-dependent information stored in the negotiation-dependent information database and carrying out analysis concerning the negotiation or assistance to the analysis on the basis of the obtained negotiation-dependent information.

9. The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 4, wherein

the step of newly creating the estimate information is periodically executed.

10. The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in any one of claims 2 through 4, wherein

the product for negotiation is a solar photovoltaic power generation device.

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11. The estimate information creating and notifying method as set forth in claim 10, wherein

the user demand information includes at least one of roof information concerning a roof on which a solar  
10 battery is installed, a desired power output, a desired time of purchase, solar battery installation surface conditions, and a desired purchase price.

12. The estimate information creating and notifying method  
15 as set forth in claim 10, wherein

the estimate information includes at least one of:

information concerning layout design for solar battery installation at individual customers' houses;  
20 and

a subsidy application time or a new product release time.

13. The estimate information creating and notifying method  
25 as set forth in claim 10, wherein

the estimate basic information includes at least  
one of:

information concerning installation;  
information concerning a subsidy; and  
5 information concerning a solar battery  
module or information concerning a power controller.

14. A computer-readable program-recorded medium that  
contains an estimate creating and notifying program,  
10 wherein said program makes a computer function as:

the estimate creating section, the negotiation-  
dependent information creating section, the contract  
conclusion information updating section, the negotiation-  
independent information updating section, and the estimate  
15 newly-creating section as set forth in claim 1.